



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Office of the Assistant Secretary
for Legislation

Washington, D.C. 20201

April 11, 2013

The Honorable Charles W. Boustany
Chairman, Subcommittee on Oversight
Committee on Ways and Means
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-6115

Dear Chairman Boustany:

Thank you for your letter regarding the draft model Health Insurance Marketplace application. I appreciate hearing your input on this important matter.

Section 1413 of the Affordable Care Act directs the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) to develop and provide to each state a single, streamlined form that may be used to apply for coverage through the Health Insurance Marketplaces and Insurance Affordability Programs, including Advance Premium Tax Credits/Cost-Sharing Reductions, Medicaid, the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), and the Basic Health Program, if applicable. The single, streamlined application will tailor the amount of data required from an applicant to that applicant's responses to particular questions. States may develop and use their own application if approved by the Secretary in accordance with section 1413 and its implementing regulations.

As you note in your letter, the draft model application includes a question asking applicants if they would like to register to vote. This question has been included because of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (NVRA), commonly known as the "motor voter law." The NVRA requires state offices that provide public assistance, which include the State Marketplaces and the State Medicaid Offices accessed through the Federal Marketplaces, to provide individuals with an opportunity to register to vote. HHS included the voter registration question in the draft model application for the State and Federal Marketplaces as a potential way of assisting states in meeting their obligations under the NVRA.

The proposed draft model application was released for public comment on January 29, 2013. We have received a number of comments on the draft application and, in response, will be streamlining the next version of the application.

Thank you for your interest in the draft Health Insurance Marketplace application. We will continue working with your staff to accommodate your interest in this matter.

Sincerely,

Jim R. Esquea

Assistant Secretary for Legislation